



7 night driver-guided tour

# The Classic Wales tour

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Small Group Tour  
with exclusive  
guided tours, five  
star hotel, meals and  
private coach  
transfers





LUXURY  
VACATIONS UK  
Since 2002



Wales is off-grid in many ways, much lesser known as a destination. We adore introducing Wales to people. The landscapes are emerald mountains and deep valleys, vast numbers of ancient castles perch on hilltops, like dramatic film sets.



Day 1

## Chepstow Castle, Tintern Abbey and Symonds Yat Rock

Tour the borders of England and Wales and discover an impressive fortress and romantic ruin. Chepstow is a wonder to explore, discover and dream of the Medieval world. Erupting out of the jagged limestone cliff, it towers over the river wye, the guardian of the main river crossing from England to southern Wales. Wales, the land of dragons and castles, was invaded by the English for centuries and eventually made part of the United Kingdom; a story of rebellion, power, and royal politics awaits you!

Cistercian monks founded Tintern Abbey in 1131. Now all that remains of this once-thriving monastery is a romantic ruin, lost in time. The ecclesiastical architecture is a skeleton of the Abbey, intricate and fragile. Its ethereal elegance, perhaps, more beautiful ruined than whole, and indeed more poignant.

End your day with views from Symonds Yat Rock that is breathtakingly beautiful. Far below see the River Wye and above Peregrin Falcons hurtle towards their prey.

Overnight: Brecon Beacons.









## Day 2

### Brecon Beacons, Carreg Cennen, and raptor feeding

The beautiful Brecon Beacons National Park covers 520 square miles from the Wales-England border. It feels like you've stepped into Tolkein's middle earth. The folds of giant mountains frame emerald green vistas. This place is every outdoor lovers paradise! Where you can experience epic mountain bike adventures, hiking in an environment where you will meet more sheep than people. It's glorious isolation with breathtaking scenery.

Discover a hidden Castle with a secret, an fortification with Iron age origins. The earliest structure was probably the work of a Welsh prince – Lord Rhys, ruler of South Wales. The isolated imposing ruins we see today bear all the hallmarks of a border Lord demonstrating his power, wealth and influence. This spectacularly located Castle built as a symbol of control. Carreg Cennen was part of a series of such fortresses built by Marcher lords throughout Wales after the Edwardian conquest. There is a dark secret to discover deep below its ramparts, be brave and explore with your guide and be enlightened.

Stop for lunch and sample local cheese before heading back into the Brecon Beacons. Stop at the Red Kite feeding station. This successfully re-introduced raptor will be seen in high numbers when feeding begins. We watch quietly from a bird hide as they circle above, they then dive and battle in mid-air for flesh. It is an impressive sight to see.

Overnight: Brecon Beacons









## Day 3

### Powis Castle and Mountain touring

Situated on a steep rock ridge, Powis Castle is a medieval Welsh fortress. The gardens and parkland, including a deer park, add to the estate's territory.

Within Powis is the Clive Museum, home to a collection of Indian and Far East artefacts. The pieces ranged from the 17th Century and made up of a variety of material such as gold, ivory, textiles and silver. The 'Cat and Snake' marble sculpture in the museum is perhaps the most eccentric piece. It is Roman art dating back to the 1st Century BC; the cat representation is an unusual piece for Roman times.

The coach house and stables are relatively modern were built in the 17th century and contain a grand state coach still used today for family ceremonies.

Powis Garden attracts visitors all year round, with its Italian and French influence and baroque style. The yew trees in the terraced gardens flow downhill like a colossal wave. The view from the bottom displays a full image of the medieval stronghold. The drive north is genuinely stunning, forests, mountain passes, and deep valleys.

Overnight: Mid-Wales









Day 4

## Hiking and rural Welsh towns

There are options to tackle a challenging walking trail or something more leisurely. We will have opportunities to suit your ability. Welsh mountains are dramatic, be amongst emerald coloured foothills, heather, rock and slate-covered slopes and windy peaks. It is a magical experience.

Stop for a beer or afternoon tea in an authentic locals village: sample, cheese, honey, and mead. Purchase a Welsh love spoon before heading back to the hotel. Drive along river banks, and through wooded valleys.

Overnight: Mid-Wales





Day 5

## Snowdonia National Park, mountain train and Conwy

Covering over 800 square miles, Snowdonia National Park breaks the horizon and clutches the skyline with the Snowdon Massif dominating the view. The most famous mountain and the highest peak is Snowdon, followed closely by Garnedd Ugain.

Many hikers train on Snowdon in preparation for climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and Everest. For those not in training can opt to travel up the mountain by steam locomotive, organized by the Snowdon Mountain Railway. The weather rarely stops the trains from operating.

Conwy town and Castle surrounded by the protective outer walls of the Castle, Conwy is a market town dating from the 13th Century. Ancient houses still exist along with the well-preserved Castle, imposing and magnificent. Built by King Edward I in the 13th Century, the primary purpose was protecting the town while managing and governing the local area. The details add to the medieval charm of the Castle's decoration, whereas the arrow-slits on the towers add to the structure's serious roll. Climb the turrets and town walls for the panoramic view of the town and Snowdonia. The chapel, kitchens, and chambers are intact and demonstrate life within the Castle.

Overnight: Conwy









## Day 6

### Bodnant Gardens and Penrhyn Castle

In the foothills of Snowdonia, with views of the Conwy valley and mountains beyond lies one of the most beautiful and impressive gardens in the world, Bodnant Gardens is a horticultural realm. The roots of this magnificent garden planned in the 19th century by Industrial Chemist, Henry Davis Pochin, who entirely re-landscaped this Georgian estate.

Discover elegant Italianate terraces, ornamental ponds, the longest laburnum arch in the world, that turns gold with flowers in the spring. Behold the vibrant pinks and reds of the rhododendron forests, Himalayan blue poppies, and more. Head down to the dell Cascading waterfalls, Asian and American conifer, including giant Californian redwoods, create a heavenly space.

Penrhyn Castle, a fantasy Neo Norman fort with industrial and colonial foundations. The unique architecture, opulent interiors and beautiful art collection financed by the sugar and slate industries. North Wales quite literally roofed the world! The high-quality roofing slate was mined and shipped around the globe generating fortunes for the owners of the mountain. See the intricately carved stone walls and staircases with flora, faces, and elaborate patterns. It is a wonder to behold.

Overnight: Conwy









Day 7

## Chatsworth House and Peak District National Park

Chatsworth, in its golden, neoclassical splendour, is an accurate illustration of the vast power and wealth of the British aristocracy. This stately house and grounds, comprising of 126 rooms is everything you hope to experience from a stately home. It has ornately decorated interiors, the finest art and furniture and a rich tapestry of family history.

It is thought that Jane Austen visited Chatsworth in 1811 and when writing *Pride and Prejudice* and used it as her inspiration for Darcy's house, Pemberley.

Discover Britain's first-ever National Park., with its breathtaking and distinctive landscape. The story of the Peaks is a story of a historical connection between the land and us humans. Its dramatic geological scenery holds clues to our archaeological past.

Head down the Cotswolds, and see picture-perfect villages, with cosy pubs and historic churches.

Overnight: Cotswolds





Day 8

## Transfer to London Heathrow

Stay an extra night, or head off to Heathrow.

The journey time is around 2 hours.



*"I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you for all your help in making our trip to London a "once in a lifetime" trip. The itinerary was superb and the accommodations were perfect. I would not change a single thing."*

ORIHTEL, T.







Hotels, restaurants and  
travel information





## Guest Houses and historic places



Guesthouses and B&B's have come a long way in the past 20 years. High-end bedding, luxurious surroundings, and refined touches are now much more common.

You get a massive bang for your buck with this category of accommodation. Stay in a private castle, gatehouse, folly, fort, lighthouse or historic country cottage is the way the British enjoy Britain. Be surrounded by glorious countryside, walking distance to a genuine village pub, and be intrigued by living if but for a short time somewhere special.





## Castles & Manor House Hotels



There's nothing quite like arriving at an authentic medieval castle or manor house and knowing you are staying the night. Every portrait, grand staircase and corridor has a tale to tell.

Each chamber will be unique, have quirks and exciting features. This style of hotel will have historic landscaped grounds, gardens, and produce grown onsite. Some have golf courses and other leisure facilities such as spas.





## Town House & Boutique Hotels



Location, location, location, your traditional townhouse hotel will be centrally situated right in town. Walk out the door and be surrounded by shops, cafes, restaurants and historical landmarks.

The boutique versions of these town centre locations will have a contemporary feel with designer bars and lounges. There is a choice of out of town boutique hotels too.





## Contemporary & Designer Hotels



Cutting edge design with elegance, setting new standards of luxury. Contemporary British hotels embody comfort, style and tech. Britain's designer hotels are just that.

Every last detail created for that place to stay and that place only. Door handles, keyholes, wine glasses and spa have seamless themes and motifs, generating the feeling of being inside a work of art.





## Classic & Britain's finest Hotels



Start and end your day in a refined and grand hotel with the best service. Known as Britain's finest Hotels, enjoy the grandeur, history, architecture along with high-end facilities.

The Classic British, five-star hotel, has world-class restaurants, up to date spas, and beautifully designed golf courses. These hotels will have manicured gardens and extensive grounds to explore. Rooms tend to have antiques and valuable works of art.



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Additional Information



ETOA



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We look forward to seeing you soon!

